(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central inspection team which visited Kerala for the purpose had suggested to submit a fresh report on the land to be given to the tribals as the land identified by the Kerala State Government was thick forest land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the State Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) The State Government had submitted a proposal to the Central Government for diversion of 12,196 hectares of vested forest land for distribution among the tribals in the State in January, 2002. The Central inspection team visited the proposed areas in June, 2003 and reported that the proposal sent by the State Government did not take into consideration the present ground realities. Keeping in view the recommendation of the team, the State Government have been informed that the proposal, in the present form, pending in the Ministry has been closed.

Checking encroachments on coastal areas

596. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that a two member Committee has been constituted by Coastal Zone Authority to improve the ecological balance and to check the environmental degradation around coastal areas;

(b) if so, the main reommendations of the above Committee to check the encroachment of coastal areas and excessive exploitation of sea resources alongwith the follow up thereof;

(c) whether high tide line has since been extended by 500 meters to check encroachments on coastal areas; and

(d) if so, the complete details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.